eHealth
Policy and Research

2007

Improving health while saving money

eHealth has become a major growth industry. It is making massive improvements in the effective delivery of healthcare, by combining new skills and the deployment of new electronic services with appropriate organisational changes.

The policy context

For two decades now, the European Commission has been developing through R&D Programmes ways of improving the delivery of healthcare through the application of state-of-the-art technologies, and the promotion of new systems and services based on these. In 2005, the Commission proposed a new strategic framework, i2010. One of the key societal challenges recognised in the i2010 strategy is to make real improvements in the provision of healthcare, when our ageing society is placing increasing demands on the underlying services and infrastructure.

Ongoing research

Research projects funded by the EU seek to develop eHealth systems and services that focus on prevention, personalisation and patient empowerment. Current research activities focus on: personal health systems and the prevention of illness and diseases; improving patient safety; modelling and simulation of human physiology and disease - related processes.

Promoting deployment and take up

The European Commission has led a number of political initiatives, to support and encourage a greater dialogue amongst healthcare administrations in the Member States. In 2004 the European Commission adopted an eHealth Action Plan that calls on Member States and the Commission to accelerate deployment and speed up delivery of the benefits of eHealth to individuals, our society at large and to the wider economy.
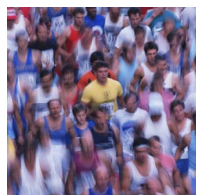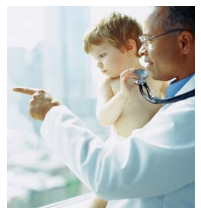
The real impact of eHealth

eHealth services provide a unique set of tools for overcoming many of the challenges that health delivery systems are facing today, and developing new patient-centred health systems which meet the complex needs of our changing world.

Technological leadership has led to the emergence of an eHealth industry in Europe that is currently estimated to be worth 20 Billion Euro. Today, many European countries and regions are world leaders in eHealth, having state-of-the-art health information networks, electronic health records and health cards.

Next steps

In 2007 there will be several key developments in the implementation of the eHealth Action Plan and the development of eHealth related initiatives. The following achievements are due this year: the launch of the large scale pilot (CIP programme), the conclusion of important studies on legal framework, on privacy, and on certification; on the research side, two calls corresponding to 170M€ funding will lead to new activities and challenges in the fields of Personal Health Systems, Personal Safety and Virtual Physiological Human; as a follow-up to the AHO report, in the context of a DG ENTR action, an initiative on lead markets will be launched and will associate several DG's in the acceleration of the creation of innovative markets in eHealth. Finally the eHealth conference in Berlin, the WoHIT in Vienna and the PHS conference in Brussels will be major events and should reinforce current policy activities.

Hard evidences prove that eHealth is already providing real benefits to people as well as real savings in public expenditure

ICT for Health: http://europa.eu/information_society/eHealth

Latest Publications and other relevant material to ICT for Health

Available on http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/health/Library

Publications

eHealth Impact Study - final report (**eHealth is worth it!** The economic benefits of implemented eHealth solutions at ten European sites) - September 2006 (6MB) **

ICT for Health & i2010 - Transforming the European healthcare landscape - Towards a strategy for ICT for Health (589KB) June 2006**

"Connected Health: Quality and Safety for European Citizens" report - Sept. 2006(1005KB)**

FP6 Projects booklet eHealth projects - June 2006: cover - introduction - Projects @ to D - E to M - N to S - S to W - Studies - Annexes (1 sheet per project is also available on the "Projects" page)**

Health - Information Society and Health: Linking European Policies (734KB) **

EC eHealth - Strategy and Policies (ppt 8.805KB)

User Needs in ICT Research for Independent Living, with a Focus on Health Aspects - workshop final draft report - June 2006 (975KB)

FP5 Projects booklet eHealth applications relating to Health

Conferences and Workshops

Personal Health Systems Conference (Feb. 2007) Poster A1 low res. (pdf - 119KB)

eHealth conference 2006 - Rising to the challenges of eHealth across Europe's regions (4.147KB)

World of Health IT - V. Reding opening speech (30KB)- V. Reding video (mpeg 65.022KB)

World of Health IT - EC background (352KB)

PHealth workshop - fp7phs_consultation_workshop_final-report (230KB)

Virtual Physiological Human (STEP) conference November 2006 - press coverage (zip 1.831KB)

poster ICT for Health unit (3.278KB)

ICT for Health newsletter: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/health/newsletter
To subscribe: http://europa.eu.int/information_society/newsroom/cf/userregistration.cfm

** Paper copies available on request to eHealth@ec.europa.eu

For further information:

ICT for Health
European Commission - Information Society and Media
Office: BU31 06/73 B-1049 Brussels
Email: eHealth@cec.eu.int
Tel: +32 2 296 41 94
Fax: +32 2 296 01 81
http://europa.eu/information_society/eHealth

Europe's Information Society: Thematic Portal

http://europa.eu.int/information_society